

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT A 01651 031941Z

10

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SAM-01 /058 W

----- 047793

R 031823Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 171

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 1651

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PINS, HA

SUBJECT: NEW POLITICAL DETENTIONS ALLEGED

1. EVER SINCE THE ANTI-CORRUPTION DETENTIONS AND ARRESTS BEGAN IN JUNE, A PERSISTENT RUMOR WAS THAT GOH SECURITY OFFICIALS FOUFP ILLEGAL ARMS IN A SEALAND CONTAINER, A FACTUAL CLAIM THAT SOME PERSONS FELT EXPLAINED THE DRACONIC MILITARY SWEEP THROUGH CUSTOMS. WHILE WE DO NOT SHARE THIS INTERPRETATION, RECENTLY WE OBTAINED SOME EVIDENCE LINKING THE DETENTION IN LATE JUNE OF SEVERAL FORMER DEPUTIES WITH THE ALLEGED DISCOVERY OF ILLEGAL ARMS IN A SHIPMENT CONSIGNED TO MME. ULRICK PAUL BLANC, A FORMER DEPUTY FROM HINCHE. AMONG THOSE SAID TO BE DETAINED IN THE CASERNES DESSALINES FOR INTERROGATION, IN ADDITION TO MME. BLANC AND HER HUSBAND, ARE:

A. RAMEAU ESTIME - COUSIN OF FORMER PRESIDENT ESTIME, FORMER MINJUSTICE (1963-67; 68-70), AND PRESIDENT OF FORMER CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES (1957-61) PRIOR TO THE CREATION OF THE UNICAMERAL LEGISLATURE.

B. JEAN JULME - FORMER MINDEFENSE & INTERIOR (64-67) AND FORMER PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (62-64).

C. DENIS BALTHAZAR - FORMER DEPUTY FOR GRAND BOIS & SAVANETTE (1961-73).

D. RAPHAEL AUGUSTIN - SAID TO BE A FORMER DEPUTY FOR CAP HAITIEN.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT A 01651 031941Z

2. COMMENT - ESTIME AND JULME WERE PREVIOUSLY ARRESTED

AND DISGRACED IN MAY-JUNE 1967 FOR ALLEGED CORRUPTION INVOLVING ILLEGAL CONVERSION OF PEASANT LAND HOLDINGS, ONLY TO BE PARDONED IN SEPTEMBER 1967. HOWEVER THEIR LUCK AGAIN FAILED THEM IN APRIL 1970, WHEN THEY WERE AGAIN ARRESTED AND ACCUSED OF TIES WITH COL. KESNER BLAIN. THEY WERE RELEASED IN JULY 1970, BUT HAVE NOT SINCE BEEN ACTIVE IN POLITICS. BOTH MEN WERE APPARENTLY CONSIDERED UNTALENTED OPPORTUNISTS. ALL THE FORMER DEPUTIES ARE VIEWED AS DISCARDED AND EMBITTERED OLD GUARD DUVALIERISTS.

3. GIVEN THIS BACKGROUND, AND FORMER PRESIDENT MAGLOIRE'S BOASTS IN NEW YORK OF PLANS TO RETURN TO POWER, ESTIME'S AND JULME'S DETENTIONS LAST MONTH UNDERSTANDABLY FUELED RUMORS

THAT THE GOH WAS MORE CONCERNED ABOUT SERIOUS ANTI-REGIME PLOTTING THAN IT WAS WITH THE DROUGHT FEEDING CRISIS OR CORRUPTION. IN FACT, WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT GOH SECURITY CONCERNS, WHATEVER THEY WERE, INTERRUPTED GOH DROUGHT RELIEF ACTIVITIES. MOREOVER, TODAY VIRTUALLY EVERY-BODY CONCEDES DUVALIER'S DETERMINATION TO CLEAN OUT CUSTOMS, WHOSE DUTY COLLECTION ACTIVITIES ARE SO REDUCED THAT EVEN THE MILITARY HAS LOANED IT SOME PERSONNEL TO HELP IT RESUME NORMAL FUNCTIONS.
ISHAM

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, ARRESTS, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PORTA01651
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750232-0207
From: PORT AU PRINCE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750787/aaaadaee.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 SEP 2003 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW POLITICAL DETENTIONS ALLEGED
TAGS: PINR, PINS, HA, (BLANC, ULRICK PAUL), (ESTIME, RAMEAU), (JULME, JEAN), (BALHAZAR, DENIS), (AUGUSTIN, RAPHAEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006